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P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948 • 918-453-5000 • [cherokee.org](http://cherokee.org)

**Office of the Chief**

**Bill John Baker**  
*Principal Chief*  
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**S. Joe Crittenden**  
*Deputy Principal Chief*  
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September 20, 2016

Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman  
Federal Communication Commission

RE: WC Docket No. 10-90  
WC Docket No. 14-259

As the Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, elected by the citizens of Cherokee Nation, I am writing this letter in support of Lake Region and its efforts to bring broadband to the Cherokee Tribal citizens. This much-needed service is not currently available to a majority of our citizens within our 14 county jurisdictions in northeastern Oklahoma, including the vast majority of our citizens within Lake Region's service area.

Broadband is transforming lives and bringing economic development to the areas that adopt it. However, citizens of the Cherokee Nation have been left behind, with particularly devastating impact on our children. This is why I am so excited that Lake Region Electric Cooperative, through its subsidiary Lake Region Technology & Communications, LLC ("Lake Region") has answered our call for broadband. Lake Region has started building a fiber network to bring broadband to its member owners in Cherokee County, Oklahoma, an area which includes tens of thousands of the Cherokee Nation citizens.

Lake Region's commitment to the Cherokee Nation is not new. We were left in the dark when larger companies passed us over as they built electricity. In response, Lake Region Electric Cooperative was formed to bring power to our Tribal citizens. Lake Region Electric Cooperative has been providing this essential service for nearly seventy years.

Broadband will empower our youth and create pathways for younger Tribal citizens to stay in their community. I urge you to grant Lake Region's application for review. Another day of delay is another day of missed opportunity for Cherokee National citizens.

Sincerely,

Bill John Baker  
Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation